However, review of the Act and amendments therein is a continuous process to keep pace with the emerging modern day requirements and challenges. Keeping this in view, the Act is also proposed to be amended to make the penalties for traffic violations more deterrent, to delegate more powers to the State Governments and make the authorities in the States more responsive to streamline the provisions relating to payment of compensation to road accident victims and also to enhance the amount of compensation etc.

Medical assistance for victims of highway accidents

2866. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that increasing number of accidents taking place on highways in the country resulting in many deaths which are attributed due to lack of emergency medical assistance soon after accidents;

(b) whether there is a lot of scope for reducing number of deaths by making available immediate medical assistance for which ambulances can be stationed at every 5 to 10 kms. points and highways with qualified medical personnel linked up with nearest speciality hospitals for medical assistance;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MAHADEV S. KHANDELA): (a) to (d) During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Government has approved a proposal of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 'establishment of an integrated network of Trauma Centres' along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West Corridors of the National Highways by upgrading the trauma care facilities in 140 identified State Government hospitals, at a total outlay of Rs. 732.75 crore. Setting up of the integrated network of Trauma Centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East West Corridors will ensure that each accident victim on these corridors is able to get competent medical assistance within the shortest possible time thereby saving precious lives. The trauma care network provides three categories of trauma care centres, i.e., Level-I, Level-II and Level-III. Level-I trauma centre in the states would provide the highest level of definitive and comprehensive care of patients with complex injuries. The level-II trauma centre would be available at every 300 km. The Level-III trauma centre would be available every 100-150 km. The present Scheme covers entire Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors. Subsequently, after evaluation of this project, other National Highways with substantial traffic density would be taken up.

The Network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transported for more than 50 kilometer. It will bring down the morbidity and mortality on the road by observing the golden hour concept. The project comprises of well equipped life support Ambulances at every 50 Kilometer of the completed stretches of the National Highways with well-equipped & staffed trauma centre at every 100-200 Kilometer of the National Highways.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under the scheme "National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS)" has been providing cranes and ambulances to States/ UTs/NGOs for relief and rescue measures in the aftermath of accidents by way of evacuating road accident victim to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site. National Highways Authority of India is also providing ambulances with the state of art equipments, deployed with qualified staff, at every 50 km on completed stretches of National Highways.

Maintenance of NHs

2867. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India is preparing a clear policy for maintenance of existing roads during construction phase of four laning/six laning by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, what is the said policy;

(c) whether there is any complaints that some of the National Highways are not being maintained as per prescribed standard by the NHAI, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Under NHDP wherever 4/6 laning works are under implementation, to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition, maintenance of existing roads are carried out by the Contractor/Concessionaire as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement. Wherever 4/6 laning has not yet started, maintenance of existing roads are being carried out by NHAI directly or through State PWDs. Maintenance of completed National Highways is carried out by NHAI through Operation and Maintenance (O&M) contracts selected through national competitive bidding.

(c) and (d) National Highways under NHDP including the state of Maharashtra are being maintained in traffic worthy condition by NHAI depending on inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Declaration of new NHs in Maharashtra

2868. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal for declaration of new National Highways; and

(b) if so, by when these National Highways are likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposal for declaring